

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Muir et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0192090). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Muir teaches a gaming machine display which includes a game playing arrangement mountable in a cabinet of a gaming machine and an electronically controlled display element overlying the game playing arrangement. Depending on a state of the display element, the game playing arrangement is visible through the display element. Also, the game playing arrangement comprises a mechanical, symbol carrying arrangement. The symbol carrying arrangement comprises a set of rotatable mechanical reels with a plurality of symbols being arranged on an outer periphery of each reel. Also, the display element comprises a display screen overlying the game playing arrangement with the display screen being a multi-layered structure. Further, the structure includes a monitor on which images are to be displayed and the monitor overlies a shutter mechanism. The shutter mechanism is an electronically controlled device that is controllable to vary between a transparent state, in which the game playing arrangement is visible through the device, and an at least partially opaque state, in which the game playing arrangement is at least partially occluded. A monitor

housing defines a plurality of openings with one opening being associated with each reel. A part of the outer periphery of each reel is visible through its associated opening. The electronically controlled device defines a plurality of zones with each zone, in use, overlying one of the reels. Each zone is controllable to vary between the transparent state, in which the associated reel is visible through that zone, and an at least partially opaque state, in which the reel is at least partially occluded.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a game result display device for performing a predetermined display relating to a game result, a game value providing device for providing a game value advantageous to a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result display device and a display control device for executing display control of the game result display device. Claim 1 recites that the game result display device includes a first display device in a form of at least one reel operative to rotate about an axis of rotation, a second display device disposed in front of the first display device when the gaming machine is viewed from a front side thereof with the second display device being in a form of a liquid crystal display panel and a third display device disposed in front of the first display device when the gaming machine is viewed from the front side with the third display device being in a form of another liquid crystal display panel, with the second and third display device being facially opposed to one another and with the third display device being disposed between the first and second display device.

Claim 1 recites that the second display device includes at least one transparent display area operative between a transparent condition for transparently displaying the display of the first display device through the second display device and a non-transparent condition and the third display device includes at least one display shielding area for selectively shielding the display of the first display device with the at least one display shielding area corresponding

to the at least one transparent display area. Furthermore, claim 1 recites that the at least one display shielding area of the third display device is controllably switched to either a view-inhibition state in which the display of the first display device is shielded to prevent or inhibit viewing of the first display device through the second display device regardless if the at least one transparent area of the second display device is in the transparent condition or the non-transparent condition or a viewing state in which the display of the first display device is transparently displayed for viewing through the second display device via the third display device when the at least one transparent display area of the second display device is in the transparent condition.

The courts have required for §102 anticipation that a single reference teach (i.e., identically describe) each and every element or step of the rejected claim or else the reference falls under §103. Atlas Powder v. E. I. du Pont, 750 F.2nd 1569, 224 USPQ 409 (Fed. Cir. 1984), Jamesbury Corp. v. Litton Industrial Products, 756 F.2nd 1556, 225 USPQ 253 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a first display device, a second display device disposed in front of the first display device and a third display device disposed in front of the first display device with the second and third display device being facially opposed to one another and with the third display device being disposed between the first and second display device. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach that the at least one display shielding area of the third display device is controllably switched to either a view-inhibition state in which the display of the first display device is shielded to prevent or inhibit viewing of the first display device through the second display device regardless if the at least one transparent area of the second display device is in the transparent condition or the non-transparent condition or a viewing state in which the display of the first

display device is transparently displayed for viewing through the second display device via the third display device when the at least one transparent display area of the second display device is in the transparent condition.

Assume arguendo that the second and third display elements are shown in the applied art in a "one piece construct" in Figure 8 (Page 4 at the end of Paragraph 5 of the Office Action) as being analogous to the second and third display elements of the claimed invention. In any regard, the controller for controlling the operation of the one piece construct of the applied art in paragraph [0045] or otherwise fails to control the one piece construct in a manner that the at least one display shielding area of the third display device is controllably switched to either a view-inhibition state in which the display of the first display device is shielded to prevent or inhibit viewing of the first display device through the second display device regardless if the at least one transparent area of the second display device is in the transparent condition or the non-transparent condition or a viewing state in which the display of the first display device is transparently displayed for viewing through the second display device via the third display device when the at least one transparent display area of the second display device is in the transparent condition as recited in claim 1.

As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3, 4 and 5 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

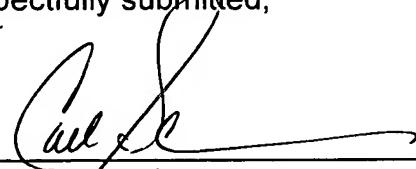
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicant asserts that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant hereby reserves the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal

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